



Seasonal Influenza Vaccination in Michigan – Focus on Pharmacies

Pharmacies are playing an increased role in seasonal influenza vaccination delivery systems in Michigan and throughout the United States. With more vaccines available in pharmacy settings, clients have increased access to immunizations. In order to determine the impact of the pharmacy role on our public health infrastructure it is vital to track vaccinations administered in pharmacy settings. The Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR), the statewide immunization registry, should be utilized to track all vaccinations administered in Michigan.

Here are a few reasons why it is imperative for pharmacies to enter doses into MCIR:

- MCIR is used to determine flu vaccination coverage; if doses are not entered, the number of people who are protected from influenza each season cannot be assessed.
- Providers routinely check MCIR to assess vaccination status; having up-to-date information in the registry ensures that people are not over or under-immunized.
- Documentation in MCIR provides patients with a permanent record of their vaccination history.
 - This includes additional vaccinations such as Zoster and Pneumococcal.
- The use of immunization registries to share immunization data with all providers promotes good public health practice.

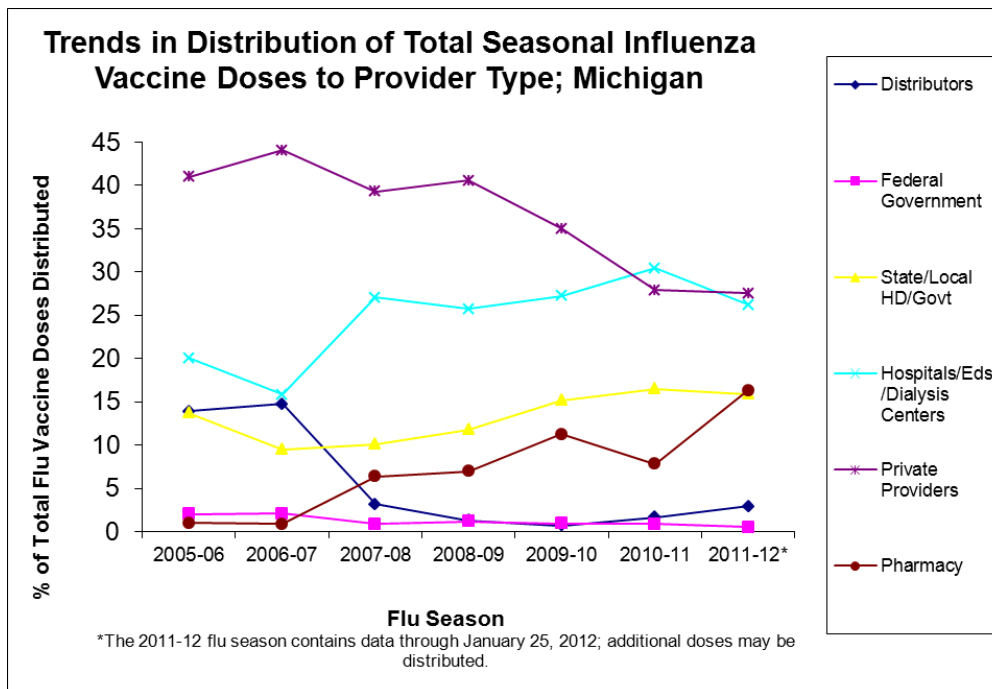
Pharmacy data in MCIR during the 2011-12 influenza season (as of December 28, 2011):

- 1,332,597 seasonal flu vaccine doses have been entered into MCIR:
 - Pharmacies entered 13% of these doses;
 - Over 75% of these doses were entered by private provider offices.
- During the 2010-11 influenza season, CDC estimated that 20% of the influenza vaccinations were administered by pharmacists.
- 647 individual pharmacies have entered 173,030 doses so far this flu season.
 - Aggregating the individual stores that are part of a corporate pharmacy, results in 83 pharmacies submitting data. (For example, instead of counting each Kroger store individually, they are combined so that Kroger is only counted once, as a corporate pharmacy.)
 - MCIR has worked with a few of the corporate pharmacies to develop processes for entering data into the registry such as: Walgreens, Target, Kroger, Meijer, Family Fare, Glen's and Hometown Pharmacy.
 - As of December 28, 2011, Walgreens has entered 68% of the total doses entered into the registry by pharmacies.
 - Meijer has entered over 11,000 more doses this year compared to last year.
 - The hard work on developing these processes is appreciated!

Trends in Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Doses Distributed to Pharmacies

The following graph illustrates trends in the percent of seasonal flu vaccine doses distributed to provider types since the 2005-06 flu season in Michigan. There has been an increase in the number of seasonal flu vaccine doses distributed to pharmacies.

- As of January 25, 2012, pharmacies received 16% (468,520) of the total doses distributed (n=2,918,455)
 - During the 2008-09 influenza season (prior to the 2009 H1N1 Influenza Pandemic) pharmacies were distributed 7% of the total seasonal flu vaccine doses in Michigan.
- There is a downward trend in the number of doses private providers are receiving.
 - During the 2008-09 flu season private providers received 41% of the total doses distributed; so far this flu season 28% of the total doses have been distributed to private providers.



These trends show that pharmacies play an integral role in flu vaccination. Increasing availability of flu vaccinations through the use of multiple locations and flexible times will aid in protecting Michigan's citizens against influenza. Pharmacy and community vaccinators' participation in MCIR will strengthen our public health infrastructure.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q1: What initial steps do I need to take to enroll in MCIR?

A1: 1) Determine who will be the Site Administrator at your pharmacy. This person is responsible for registering and monitoring MCIR User accounts for the organization. Site Administer training is available here: <http://mcir.org/SiteAdministratorTraining.html>

2) Complete the MCIR Provider User/Usage Agreement:
http://mcir.org/forms/MCIR_Provider_User-Usage_Agreement.pdf

Q2: What do I need to do once I have completed the User/Usage Agreement and have received an email message from mcir@michigan.gov with the subject "MCIR User Registration"?

A2: Complete the MCIR User Registration- A One Time, Four Step Process. The following outlines how: <http://www.mcir.org/forms/Registration4StepProcess.pdf>

Q3: How do I use MCIR to find (or add) patients and record immunizations?

A3: The following tip sheet provides a step-by-step process:

http://www.mcir.org/forms/General_Immunizing_Pharmacy_Instr.pdf

Q4: Can I use my pharmacy EMR system to upload data?

A4: Yes, you can. More information is available here:

<http://www.mcir.org/ProviderTransferInfo.html>

Q5: How often should I submit data?

A5: Ideally on a daily basis. Other pharmacies enrolled in MCIR have successfully submitted data on a daily basis. If you are uploading from an EMR, this process takes approximately 5 minutes at the end of the day.

Q6: Does using MCIR require a lot of work?

A6: Once you have a process in place, there is minimal work required. Pharmacies have been successful using both manual entry as well as uploading from an approved EMR.

Q7: Who do I contact if I have questions?

A7: MCIR Regional contacts can be found here: http://www.mcir.org/contact_regions.html

You can also contact the MCIR help desk at: 1-888-243-6652 or email at: MCIRhelp@mphi.org

Additional Information:

- Patients must be provided with an up to date Immunization Record that includes doses administered at pharmacies. Additional information can be found at http://www.aimtoolkit.org/children/misc/Imm_Record_Card_Info_122706.pdf
- Make sure you are using the Michigan Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) (http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2942_4911_4914-138197--,00.html#english)
 - VIS are information sheets produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that explain both the benefits and risks of a vaccine to vaccine recipients, their parents, or their legal representatives. Federal law requires that VIS be handed out whenever certain vaccinations are given.
 - **In Michigan, it is important that vaccine recipients, their parents, or their legal representatives be given the Michigan versions of VIS because they include information about the MCIR.**
- If you administer additional vaccinations at your pharmacy, please enter those doses into MCIR as well.

For more information on participating in MCIR, visit: <http://www.mcir.org/Pharmacyinfo.html>. For additional information on seasonal influenza vaccination, visit: www.michigan.gov/flu or www.cdc.gov/flu.

Please contact Cristi Carlton, MPH, Vaccine-preventable Disease Epidemiologist with MDCH at carltonc2@michigan.gov or 517-335-9104 if you have questions.